

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 IO-13 H-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3322

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SHUM, UY

SUBJ: URUGUAY CHARGES INTERVENTION IN HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT 9:30
LAST NIGHT (FEB 28) TO HAND ME A NOTE ANNOUNCING A GOU
DECISION TO CANCEL ANY OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR MILITARY AND
ECONOMIC AID. IT CITES AS GROUNDS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS
USING SUCH AID, CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, TO INTERVENE IN
URUGUAYAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN PRESENTING THE NOTE THE MINISTER
SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S REMARKS IN SENATE HEARINGS LAST
WEEK, IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED AID SANCTIONS AGAINST URUGUAY,
TOGETHER WITH ETHIOPIA AND ARGENTINA, HAD UNFAIRLY EXPOSED
URUGUAY TO INTERNATIONAL OPPROBRIUM AS A VIOLATOR OF HUMAN
RIGHTS. THE GOU, HE SAID, COULD SEE IN THIS ONLY THE NEFARIOUS HAND
OF THE COMMUNIST COMMON ENEMY OF BOTH COUNTRIES. NATIONAL
DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT REQUIRED IT, HE SAID, TO TAKE THE ACTION
DESCRIBED IN THE NOTE, AN ACTION VERY MUCH REGRETTED, HE SAID,
BECAUSE ALL OTHERS URUGUAY WANTED AND EXPECTED TO HAVE THE UNDER-
STANDING OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A MATTER OF DEEP REGRET,
HE SAID, THAT IT HAS NOT RECEIVED THIS UNDERSTANDING.

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2. IN RESPONSE, I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT (AS EXPLAINED IN STATE
042441) WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ANNOUNCED
ECONOMIC AID CUTS FOR URUGUAY HAD BEEN IN ERROR. ON THE OTHER
HAND I RECALLED AS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR PEREZ
CALDAS IN WASHINGTON (STATE 041047 AND BY ME HERE TO HIM (MVD 776))
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEEK SECURITY ASSISTANCE
FUNDS IN FY 78. I REMINDED THE MINISTER OF THE MANY OCCASIONS ON

WHICH I HAD URGED THAT URUGUAY ADOPT A MORE OPEN POLICY SO AS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION HERE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. UNFORTUNATELY, I SAID, IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH CLARIFICATION, THE IMAGE WIDELY HELD OF URUGUAY ABROAD WHICH HAD PURSUADED THE CONGRESS LAST YEAR TO LEGISLATE AGAINST FURTHER MILITARY AID REMAINED THE PREVAILING ONE. THIS BEING THE CASE, I SAID, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DETERMINED AS A REFLECTION OF ITS DEEP MORAL CONCERN ON HUMAN RIGHTS NOT TO SEEK MILITARY AID FUNDS. I STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT REGARD SUCH AN ACT OF NOT DOING SOMETHING WHICH IT HAS NO OBLIGATION TO DO AS AN INTERVENTIONIST ACTION. I ADDED IN MY OPINION THE CLEAR REMEDY ON THIS MATTER REMAINS IN URUGUAYAN HANDS AND IT IS UP TO URUGUAY TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE IMAGE PREVAILING ABROAD MAY BE AN INACCURATE ONE.

3. THE MINISTER WAS THOROUGHLY COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL AT ALL TIMES DURING OUR INTERVIEW AND HIS Demeanor WAS CLEARLY THAT OF SADNESS RATHER THAN ANGER. HE SAID THE GOU HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE BY THE MEDIA TO KNOW HOW IT WOULD RESPOND TO THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND THAT IT INTENDED TO RELEASE THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS NOTE ON TUESDAY MORNING.

4. THE SUBSTANTIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THE NOTE NO. 11/977 DATED MARCH 1 ARE:

A. QUOTE 1) THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY HAD DECIDED OFFICIALLY TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FORMALLY BY MEANS OF THIS NOTE, THAT IT CANCELS ANY REQUESTS FOR MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID WHICH IT HAS MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR TO ANY OF ITS AGENCIES AND WHICH MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THIS TIME PENDING DECISION.
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B. 2) THIS DECISION IS MADE BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS USING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF URUGUAY, USING IT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROJECTS THEMSELVES WHICH, APART FROM ARISING INTRINSICALLY FROM A CLEAR MININFORMATION WHICH LAMENTABLY ONLY FAVORS SUBVERSION, ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY, ACCORDING TO THE EXISTING STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. END QUOTE.
SIRACUSA

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